



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

Release No.: NR-0819
For Release: March 17, 2008
P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Contact: Cindy Foley, Public Affairs Specialist
Phone: 904-232-1238 FAX: 904-232-2237
Email: Cindy.t.foley@usace.army.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Awards Contract For Construction of Portuguese Dam

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, awarded a contract on Friday, March 14, for construction of the Portugues Dam. The \$180-million contract was awarded to Dragados USA, Inc., of New York, NY.

The project is located approximately three miles northwest of the city of Ponce, Puerto Rico, on the Portugues River.

The contract calls for construction of a 220-foot high Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) single center thick arch dam with a crest length of 1,230 feet and an estimated 367,000 cubic yards of RCC. Appurtenant structures include an integral spillway and intake structure. A valve house and control room for reservoir operation is located just downstream adjacent to the river. Work will also include foundation excavation in rock, placing foundation concrete, foundation grouting and development of an on-site quarry for concrete aggregate production.

The Portugues Dam project is cost-shared with the Puerto Rican government, with the federal government providing 75 percent and the local sponsor, the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, providing 25 percent of the required funds. Construction is anticipated to start in April 2008, and is currently scheduled to be completed in 48 to 60 months.

For further information on this project, please visit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District web site at www.saj.usace.army.mil and click on the "Portugues Dam, Puerto Rico" link. The web site includes English and Spanish versions of a video about the project.

Questions may be referred to the Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1238.

-30-